

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05
USSS-00 A-01 /058 W
-----201552Z 104098 /43

O R 201510Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5873
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY
SUBJECT: DAVIES TRIAL

1. IN AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, TWO OF THE FIVE DEFENDANTS IN THE DAVIES TRIAL CHANGED THEIR PLEA TO GUILTY AS THE COURT PROCEEDINGS RESUMED ON MAY 20. CHRISTAKIS HARALAMBOUS HAD ADVISED THE ASSIZES COURT AT A SPECIAL AFTERNOON SESSION ON MAY 19 THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO RIOTING AND TO POSSESSING EXPLOSIVES. AFTER ENTERING HIS GUILTY PLEA ON MAY 20, THE COURT SENTENCED HARALAMBOUS TO A THREE-MONTH PRISON TERM.

2. THE ATTORNEY FOR LOIZOS SAVVA ADVISED THE COURT ON MAY 20 THAT SAVVA WAS WILLING TO PLEAD GUILTY TO RIOTING. HE HAD ARRANGED WITH CYPOL TO OFFER IN EVIDENCE A DOCUMENT WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED TO BE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM CYPOL FOR SAVVA TO CARRY THE PISTOL HE HAD WITH HIM ON AUG 19, 1974, AT THE SCENE OF THE RIOTS. THE PROSECUTION AGREED TO ACCEPT THE GUILTY PLEA TO RIOTING AND TO WITHDRAW THE CHARGES OF HOMICIDE AND CARRYING A WEAPON ILLEGALLY. THE COURT THEN
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SENTENCED SAVVA TO AN EIGHT-MONTH PRISON TERM.

3. THE EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED BY THE GOC THAT THIS PLEA-BARGAINING WAS UNDERWAY. WE EXPECT TO HAVE A BETTER FEELING FOR WHAT TRANSPIRED, AND WHY IT TRANSPIRED AS WE DISCUSS THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS.

4. BASED ON THE LIMITED INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE TO US, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE CREDIBILITY OF STYLIANOU'S TESTIMONY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY ON THE BASIS OF SAVVA'S GUILTY PLEA. STYLIANOU WAS THE ONLY WITNESS KNOWN TO CYPOL WHO HAD CLAIMED SAVVA WAS AT THE SCENE OF THE RIOTS. SAVVA'S ATTORNEY HAS NOW ADVISED THE COURT THAT SAVVA HAD ARRIVED AT THE EMBASSY AREA, AS STYLIANOU HAD TESTIFIED, IN HIS POLICE LAND ROVER WITH TWO AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ON HIS SHOULDERS AND A POLICE PISTOL AT HIS WAIST. THE COURT DETERMINED THAT SAVVA'S PRESENCE AND ACTIONS AT THE EMBASSY DID NOT ASSIST IN RESTORING ORDER BUT INSTEAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE RIOTING. THE EMBASSY FSL HAS ADVISED THAT SAVVA WAS NOT QUESTIONED ON MAY 20 ABOUT WHETHER HE HAD ENTERED THE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITH KTIMATIAS AND LEFTIS.

5. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE AS SOON AS WE OBTAIN A CLEARER PICTURE OF MAY 20 PROCEEDINGS. PHERSON EXPECTS TO SEE THE PROSECUTORS FOR A FEW MINUTES LATER TODAY (MAY 20) AND CYPOL ASST. CMDR. DEMETRIOU ON THE MORNING OF MAY 21.
CRAWFORD

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